



HQ AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB TX



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Images of prisoners of war harden resolve

By Sig Christenson

Express-News Military Writer

Web Posted : 03/25/2003 12:00 AM

SOUTH-CENTRAL IRAQ — They file into the commander's tent and gaze with rage at video of captured U.S. soldiers and American dead, broadcast on Iraqi television and rebroadcast on Fox News.

Between the fighting and rapid sweep north toward Baghdad, the most technologically advanced army in history is sometimes able to watch the war progress on satellite TV.

And the most recent images have only strengthened their resolve.

"I'd like it if my vehicle were to come up on them. I'd really like that," said Spc. Bryan Slick, 29, of Baltimore, referring to the Iraqis who took part in the capture and display of the Americans.

U.S. officials confirmed 12 soldiers were missing after Iraqi forces ambushed a supply convoy Sunday near Nasiriyah, a major crossing point over the Euphrates northwest of Basra, the Associated Press reported.

Officials at Fort Bliss at El Paso said about 10 members of the post's 507th Maintenance Company were missing.

Some of the captured soldiers told Iraqi TV said they were with the 507th, which is not a combat unit.

Still, Slick added, "I'd hope they resisted."

The soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division's Task Force 3-69, a critical component of the ground war in Iraq, have permission to enter Lt. Col. Rick Marcone's tent during the day, where a satellite TV is tuned to Fox. Marcone, commander of the 3-69 Armor Battalion, said he has been unable to tune in to CNN.

"I think it will strengthen our resolve and our ability to fight," Marcone said of the video.

Slick, Airman 1st Class Nick Taylor and Air Force Staff Sgt. Travis Crosby, 25, of Walthourville, Ga., are assigned to an armored personnel carrier they call "Mean Monkey."

They're on the front lines of the war each day calling in close air support for the task force — a dangerous job that carries the real risk of being captured.

There is little safe ground in this part of Iraq, even though it's held by a large and well-armed force of Americans.

Evidence of Iraqi preparations for war was seen soon after the division crossed the border.

S. A. Express-News

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Images of prisoners of war harden resolve, Con't.

Deep, wide trenches lined a highway about the size of a Texas farm road for miles.

Those trenches also were seen during a battle for a plateau Sunday between the division's 3-69 Battalion and a group of Iraqi troops.

At about 1:15 p.m. Monday, a soldier with the division was shot dead by Iraqi infiltrators only a mile or so away from a command post, said the 3-69 Armor Battalion's executive officer, Maj. Mike Johnson.

The soldier's identity was withheld pending notification of his family.

"We really don't know who it was or why they did it," he said, adding that details about the incident were sketchy.

The Americans have great confidence in their training and high-tech wizardry.

Troops use their thermal imaging systems here to scan the horizon for infiltrators. Many also are armed with night-vision scopes that are attached to their helmets.

Many of the soldiers were not expecting determined Iraqi resistance.

But Johnson said the reality that war is at hand came home Sunday, when incoming artillery rounds slammed into the earth near the battalion's command post.

No one was injured, but the Iraqi gunners fired on U.S. military vehicles clearly marked by Red Cross symbols. Vehicles and buildings with those symbols are not supposed to be attacked.

"I can tell that they are afraid because now they know (the Iraqis) are not following the Geneva Convention," said Chaplain (Capt.) David Santiago, a 43-year-old native of Puerto Rico, who was approached by several soldiers after they learned of the prisoners.

"I don't think they're afraid to get killed as soldiers, but being captured, tortured, put on video and executed is disappointing."

"Mean Monkey's" radio operator, Taylor, 21, of Carrollton, Ohio, worries more about chemical and biological weapons.

Like many of the M1 and Bradley crews, among them the "dismount" infantrymen who leave the personnel carrier to fight, Taylor and his crewmates are young.

They take "baby wipe" baths, eat MREs and sleep when they can, where they can, often inside the car-size crew compartment of their M-113.

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Images of prisoners of war harden resolve, Con't.

Dust from the omnipresent sand that blows everywhere covers their faces, turning them a dirty brown.

Toughened by their training and months of living in Kuwait's inhospitable northern desert, surrender isn't on their minds — particularly now.

"I want to make it clear I'm not putting anything on the guys who got captured," said Slick, who said he prefers to die on his feet, a weapon in hand.

"For the enemy to strip those guys of their dignity in that way — once they're captured they're not combatants," he said. "They're prisoners, and they should be treated accordingly. The enemy that did that, they're not soldiers. They're animals."



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



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Arizona contribution

Luke Air Force Base is the world's largest F-16 training base. Virtually every pilot in the world who flies an F-16 at one time or another has gone through Luke. And before Williams Air Force Base closed, every pilot who flew an F-15 cycled through there for training.

The Arizona Republic
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AETC Bases News Clips

Vance AFB OK



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Securing the base

By: Robert Barron, Staff Writer

March 20, 2003

Armed guards, limited access realities at Vance AFB.

Now that war has broken out between the United States and Iraq, Vance Air Force Base will be a difficult place to visit.

Kent Cummins, chief of news at Vance, said the base has been at a heightened state of security since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The base is now at Force Protection Condition Bravo, armed guards are posted at the gate and access is limited.

"Like other military installations, Vance monitors potential threats to the security of our personnel and resources and responds with appropriate action whenever the likelihood of those threats may escalate," Cummins said in a prepared statement.

The statement also said security action may be indicated by anything from nonspecific hostilities directed at government personnel or facilities to a threat directed specifically at Vance.

The level of base security response adjusts accordingly.

"As a matter of policy, we generally do not discuss specific intelligence that leads to changes in our threat assessments nor the specific steps taken to counter threats, as that information could compromise our ability to monitor and respond to changing security environments," Cummins said in the statement.

In general, he said, threat countermeasures include a wide spectrum of activities across the installation, such as controlled access to the base and base facilities or increased scrutiny of individuals and packages.

"Vance Air Force Base's goal is to ensure that the people who live and work there do so in the safest environment that can be provided, and the threat response posture is an integral part of that base security program," Cummins said in the statement.

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AETC Bases News Clips

Vance AFB OK



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Enid residents react

By: Robert Barron, Staff Writer

March 20, 2003

As a pink dawn inched its way into a hazy Baghdad horizon, American cruise missiles began to fall.

As President George W. Bush told the world the disarmament of Iraq had begun, a silent crowd at an Enid restaurant sat with concerned faces turned toward the television, listening to see what happened next.

The crowd watched the president's brief speech after television news reported that cruise missiles had been launched at strategic military targets in Baghdad.

The president's action had overwhelming approval of customers.

Ryan Roberts, an air traffic controller at Vance Air Force Base, wants it done quickly.

"I'm glad we're doing it before they come over here and bomb us," he said.

Robert predicted the war would be short, and he has extreme confidence in his colleagues who are flying planes into Baghdad.

"They can put 'em (bombs) down a chimney or through a window pane," he said.

Roberts has a personal connection to the war. His supervisor was activated and sent to the Middle East to an undisclosed location.

Bill Pennington, Ph.D., also was watching the announcement of the start of hostilities.

"I'm very apprehensive about war. But once it starts, we have to meet the objectives set out. Nobody likes war, but it is necessary," Pennington said.

Lisa Maly thinks the bombing needs to be done.

"I think it's about time, but I really feel for the service people," she said. "It's something we've needed to do."

Maly became convinced of the importance by the events leading up to the mobilization of troops.

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As a pink dawn inched its way into a hazy Baghdad horizon, American cruise missiles began to fall, Con't

"The Iraqis thought the United States wouldn't step in and take action. We need to let them know we're not to be fooled with," she said.

Elsewhere, state and national political officials weighed in on what appeared to be the first strike against Iraq.

U.S. Third District Congressman Frank Lucas issued an official statement following the president's speech that "the end of twelve long years of lies and deception by Saddam Hussein begins today."

Lucas reiterated "every possible avenue for diplomacy has been exhausted.

"Today, the deadly shell game of hiding and moving weapons of mass destruction will end," Lucas' statement said. "May God be with the brave soldiers who find themselves center stage at this important moment in world history."

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., also expressed support for the troops.

"America has the best-trained, best-equipped fighting force in military history," he said.

However, others in Oklahoma take a different view of the strike.

Ed Kessler, vice chairman of the Oklahoma chapter of Common Cause, had a different opinion regarding the military action.

"We're opposed to what's being done," he said. "I think our board would probably feel that raining bombs on a city is not good. What can I say? I think we're going to see what the consequences are."

Tom Temple, an organizer of peace walks around the site of the bombed federal building in Oklahoma City, did not have his television on when the strikes came. A friend called and told him.

"The last few days have been like waiting for someone to die," he said, "and now it's finally happened."

He said his group will continue to meet for the peace walks but imagines this Sunday's walk will be "focused on grief and mourning and sadness."

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AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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Posted on Sat, Mar 22, 2003

The Sun Herald

Bases trying to balance security, traffic flow

By **DON HAMMACK**
THE SUN HERALD

Major military installations and large governmental agencies in South Mississippi have not reported changes in security efforts as the war in Iraq has begun.

At Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Master Sgt. Eugene Bird said the Air Force had passed down no directive to change its current levels. The base is at Force Protection Condition Bravo, which means there is an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity.

The Department of Defense sets that level. The next higher level would be in response to knowledge of an imminent terrorist threat. The military's protection levels are not necessarily linked to the national threat level, so this week's increase to orange didn't require a change at military bases.

Bird said if Keesler went to FPCON Charlie, it wouldn't necessarily indicate a direct threat in Biloxi, but rather a nationwide response.

Ramping up security in that situation would likely cause a slowdown in processing vehicles through Keesler's gates.

"Our senior leadership has discussed what we can do in case an increase in security causes delays," Bird said. "We have actively looked at what we can do to keep traffic from backing up on Highway 90 or I-110."

That would probably mean staggering reporting times for off-base personnel. Now, there's no limitation on access for retirees and others who have benefits at base facilities, and there appeared to be no abnormal traffic situations Thursday morning.

Naval Station Pascagoula will not discuss its security situation.

"We don't discuss our force protection policy," said Stacey Byington, public affairs officer. "That's the guidance we're getting from on high."

Byington would only volunteer that the base is "maintaining the necessary security levels to keep our assets secure."

She said traffic flowed in normally Thursday.

The Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport also reported no extra delays in its morning rush hour. Base officials said they weren't doing anything new.

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"Not at all," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Jerry Carrubba, the base's assistant security officer. "We're doing what we've been doing for several months."

At Stennis Space Center, home of 30 agencies and the site where NASA tests shuttle main engines, cars are checked as they enter. Stennis has a long-standing policy requiring visitors to go to the administration building to get passes. That has not changed.

Stennis' largest tenant is the Naval Meteorology and Oceanographic Command, which supplies key oceanographic and atmospheric information to the nation's fighting forces. It's also the location of the StenniSphere, which remains open to the public.

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LUKE AFB, AZ



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Northwest Valley Newspaper

Daily News-Sun SURPRISE TODAY Northwest Valle

Monday, March 24, 2003 • Serving the Northwest Valley of Phoenix

Boys recover from ammo find

KATY O'GRADY
NORTHWEST VALLEY NEWSPAPERS

(Daily News-Sun, March 22, 2003) — It took Ruth Nelson three hours to change the bandages on 11-year-old K.J.'s burned hands. She had to remove the dead skin and care for the burns before rewrapping them. "You have to do it twice a day," she said. "It's awful."

Those hands came across Luke Air Force Base ordnance in an auxiliary air field Luke personnel use for training about a half a mile from the Nelsons' Wittmann home, just on the border of Surprise.

"Leadership at Luke Air Force Base regrets the incident and primary concern is the condition and welfare of the child," Luke officials said in a statement.

Luke Auxiliary Field 1 is located south of Highway 60, about 15 miles northwest of Luke, according to base officials.

"When I moved here, I knew there was an auxiliary Air Force base, but I was told it was out of use," Ruth Nelson said. Now, she notices that periodically, hundreds of Luke troops appear on the base overnight, loaded with their equipment, tents and training gear.

"Overnight — boom — they're there, and then they're gone. They practice there for the war," she said. "It would be good if other parents knew there were dangerous things out there," she said.



Photo by STEVE CHERNEK
K.J. Nelson, right, burned his hands and his brother, Cody, burned his leg after a piece of ordnance caught fire. They boys found the ammunition on an auxiliary air base near their home in Wittmann.

Luke officials said the auxiliary field is primarily used for F-16 instrument

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LUKE AFB, AZ



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approach training, and the aircraft do not drop munitions.

"Since the area is generally isolated, Air Force Security Forces, as well as personnel from other military units, conduct air base ground defense training at the field. A barbed wire fence surrounds the area and signs are posted indicating it is a restricted military training area," Luke officials said in the statement.

But Ruth Nelson said the barbed wire fence is down "in several places," and "it's not posted that much as a restricted area."

K.J. and his older brother, 12-year-old Cody, headed out to the auxiliary field on their bicycles after hearing about it at school March 11. Ruth Nelson said about seven of the boys' schoolmates planned on visiting the site the next day.

"A neighbor kid told them he had found an abandoned tank out there because they do war games out there," Ruth Nelson said. "This used to be way out in the desert, but now it's right next to homes."

The boys found the tank, but also stumbled across some devices containing explosive materials.

K.J. took an armor box, filled it with ammunition and blasting caps, and took it home, according to Maricopa County Sheriff's Office records. Ruth Nelson found her boys playing with it about 5:15 p.m. on the back porch.

"They said, 'Mom, look at what we got!' I said, 'Put that away, that's dangerous,'" she said.

Ruth Nelson went inside for about five minutes to change clothes, then headed back out to check on the boys. That's when she heard the explosion, followed by K.J.'s yells for help. He had tried using a lighter to ignite some of the powder from one of the munitions.

"He said it looked like a burrito," Ruth Nelson said. "It had been raining the last couple of days, thank God, because it was broken up a little.

"The lighter didn't ignite, it was just a spark that fell on it," but then orange light shot up and the munition ignited, sending smoke throughout the patio, she said.

K.J. suffered severe burns to his hands, and Cody's leg was burned.

Larissa Spraker, a spokeswoman with the Maricopa Medical Center, said K.J. was treated in the medical center's emergency room March 11 and released the same night.

Although K.J. got his bandages off Friday, his mother is scared other children might also be lured by the excitement of tanks and other realities of Luke's auxiliary field. She said she warned the boys to stay away from the field since it is private property, but the attraction was too much.

According to sheriff's office records, a Luke Air Force Base staff sergeant talked to the children after the incident, telling them the auxiliary field is owned by Luke and off-limits to the public. He took the ordnance when he left.

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KEESLER AFB, MS



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Churches offer prayer not proselytizing

In time of war, pastors focus on comfort not debating battle

By KAT BERGERON

Posted on Mon, Mar. 24, 2003

THE SUN HERALD

Shortly before his wife left for Sunday worship at Church of Christ in Ocean Springs, Dr. Lance Hesselrode called her from Incirlik, Turkey, where he is with a critical care air transport team. The captain and other "C-Cats" from Keesler Air Force Base will be sent where needed, as one team was for a battlefield soldier in asthmatic attack.

Pam Hesselrode then left for church, consoled after hearing his voice.

"We come as a family every Sunday; in fact my husband is a song leader," she said. "But being able to come to church now is a real comfort. This is my support."

On the entry wall is a bulletin board festooned in red, white and blue with names of a dozen church members in the Iraq war. Still, the Rev. Al Sturgeon, like many other ministers, chose not to dedicate his sermon to the war but proceeded as planned with his lesson on Jesus' views on the Sabbath. At prayer time, however, petitions were made for a swift and safe return for all.

"I realize there are a variety of views whether going to war was good or bad, but I don't think this worship service is the proper context for discussion," explained Sturgeon. "Rather, we should pray for God to give wisdom to our leaders and peace in the world."

Bishop: Not time to second-guess

One South Mississippi minister who did devote his sermon to the war is the Most Rev. Thomas J. Rodi, bishop of the 17-county Biloxi Catholic Diocese.

"What impressed me is that Bishop Rodi told us that now that war has begun, this is not the time to second-guess the president," said Ben Wimberly, parish deacon who attended Mass at Nativity BVM Cathedral. "That impressed me because for weeks we have prayed for a miracle and peaceful resolution."

"I think we must listen to what the bishop told us when he pointed out there surely will be things done by our enemy to upset us, but that as Christians we should not pray for vengeance but understanding."

As at the cathedral, Sunday church attendance across South Mississippi was about normal for a Sunday in March.

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Churches offer prayer not proselytizing, Con't.

"This Iraq situation does not seem to be bringing more people to church, as happened immediately after 9/11," said Wimberly's wife, Mary. "It wasn't the same sort of shock because we've known about the possibility of war, and and we've been praying all along.

"I think what churches are doing is offering other ways for people to get involved. In the Marian Chapel at our cathedral, there's a book in which people can inscribe the names of loved ones involved in the war. I looked at it this morning, and George Bush's name is in it, and all the media from this area who are over there.

"It's nondenominational. Churches are finding ways to help remember everyone."

Parishioners offer help

Dee Sinclair Layfitté was late for services at Handsboro Presbyterian Church in Gulfport because she was lugging her laundry basket.

"God led me to bring the basket," Layfitté said. "I read a list in the newspaper of what the troops need, so I put a few items in the basket and took my yellow ribbon off the front door for decoration."

She put the basket in the church entry. Her minister explained what it was for and it is quickly filling up.

The tangible - eye drops, lotion, bug spray - mixes with the intangible - prayer - as churches reach out to members and their communities as war progresses day by day.

"At times like this people need comfort and they need to seek the Lord," said Joe Kidd, a Vietnam War-era veteran who attended First Missionary Baptist Church in Gulfport.

"It's time for us to come together, whether you are a believer or a nonbeliever."

Kidd's pastor, the Rev. S.V. Adolph Jr., has been opening his church doors every day at noon for prayer since the first church member headed to Kuwait, but he chooses not to sermonize the war.

"When you think about it, all of our preaching since February has been related to it," Adolph said. "Even Black History Month had underscores of possibilities of war and preparing for terrorists attacks.

"We are praying for the nation and that Christians would be what we are supposed to be in an hour like this."

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Churches offer prayer not proselytizing, Con't.

A definition of what that meant was given those attending Biloxi's Episcopal Church of the Redeemer when the Rev. Harold Roberts passed along a message from the national Episcopal bishops.

"We are aware that within the community there are a variety of opinions about the course our nation is pursuing," Roberts said. "Nevertheless, Christians are called by Jesus to regard all persons as neighbors, to reach out in mercy, and to pray for one another and for our enemies."

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Couple recognized for their contributions

By John Ingle Times Record News
March 24, 2003

Col. Ralph Jodice and his wife, Judy, have been sighted riding in the Hotter'n Hell on a tandem bicycle during hot August days.

They have a common mission in life: being the best they can be.

For that, the couple was recognized this month as the top husband-wife tandem in the Air Education and Training Command.

"The command looks out at the various wing commanders and who they feel is doing a lot to support the USAF and who is doing their mission," Jodice said. "They selected us."

The Jodices were recognized on March 12 by AETC because of contributions to the nation, the Air Force and the local community, as well as completing the mission of the 80th Flying Training Wing.

The duo will now compete against other command winners to earn the top spot in the Air Force and the 2003 Gen. and Mrs. Jerome F. O'Malley Award. The winners should be announced in the next couple of months.

About 20 wing commanders were vying for the top honor in the command, including his counterpart at Sheppard, Brig. Gen.

Arthur Rooney, commander of the 82nd Training Wing, Jodice said.

The award wasn't a goal that he and his wife had planned on achieving, he said. "Judy and I never expect anything like this," the colonel said. "We just go about our jobs and do the best we can."

Apparently the best they could do was the best in the command.

The colonel described his wife as someone who is non-stop and "on the go all the time to help people out."

"She's dedicated to doing the right thing for the right people at the right time," he said. Judy described the couple's honor in one word — "Wow!" — several times in about a 15-minute time span.

"The whole thing wowed me that we were considered and that we had won," she said. "We didn't initiate anything. It wasn't a plan to go out and win this award."



Gary Lawson Times Record News

Col. Ralph Jodice and his wife, Judy, recognized as the top husband-wife tandem in the Air Education and Training Command, are up for the national recognition for their contributions to the Air Force and local community.

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Couple recognized for their contributions, Con't.

Judy is involved with the Wichita Falls Symphony board, the Officers' Wives Club and the Burkburnett schools' District Improvement Team — to name a few.

She said people are the reason she gets involved in various organizations. A desire to meet new people and assist them in any way is what drives her, she said.

"I really like being involved," she said. "I enjoy getting to a base and getting very involved in that base."

Like her husband, Judy said this award has a little more special meaning than any individual awards or recognition the two have received. "It's really special because it is something for both Ralph and me," she said. "To be recognized as a couple is really special. We are a team."

Judy described the colonel as someone who is understanding and doesn't rule with an iron fist. He's a good listener and doesn't use his rank to get things done.

"He's very committed to everything he does," she said. "He's committed to his family, his work and his people." Who nominated the Jodices for the award was a bit of a mystery.

But an officer in the 80th Training Flying Wing cleared up that matter.

"His executive officer and myself decided that he has done so much for the base and the community that they deserve the award," said Lt. Col. Tim Burke, the deputy commander for the 80th Operations Group.

He said the couple was more than deserving of the command award as well as any future award they could win at the Air Force-wide level. Their energy and commitment to Sheppard and the community has set them apart, he said. "They're very low-key, but they're very effective communicators and active in the community and the base," he said.

A press release from the AETC vice commander, Lt. Gen. John Hopper, described the Jodices as the "air force model of team leadership."

Col. Jodice has successfully continued to produce high quality pilots in the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program, the general said. That included the graduation of about 250 pilots annually, more than 78,000 flight hours and management of 450 pilots and 220 aircraft.

"His personal involvement in the welfare and care of every member" is a testament to leadership in the Air Force, Hopper said. He described Judy as a woman who is active in the community and who gives to others in need.

"She is a non-stop civic leader, spreading the word on the importance of NATO training to the local community," he said. "She re-energized (ENJJPT's) pilot-for-a-day program and teamed with the Dallas Make-a-Wish foundation to help terminally ill children and their families minimize their health problems for a few hours."

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Vance AFB OK



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Crude to open season with tribute, Tri-City

By: David Purdum, Staff Writer

March 21, 2003

The Oklahoma Crude will begin its second season in the National Indoor Football League tonight when the Tri-City Diesel visits the Chisholm Trail Expo Center for a 7:35 p.m. kickoff

Crude officials discussed postponing the game because of the war in Iraq, but decided to play the game as scheduled.

"We felt the more things we could do to keep things as business-like as normal, the better," said Crude Director of Operations, Jay Hoberecht. "The NCAA went on with their games, and we are following their lead."

The Crude will pay tribute to the troops overseas by treating fans to a patriotic pre-game starting at 6:30 p.m. The pre-game ceremonies will start at 6:35 p.m. and will include music, indoor fireworks, and the Flamekist Dancers.

Corey Edmonds, the Crude's speedy wide receiver, is also a 1st Lt. at Vance Air Force Base, and agrees with the team's decision to play the game. "Basically, it is important to keep everything as normal as possible," said Edmonds. "Football is secondary to my job with the military."

"During the game, you get focused on playing. Those guys are my team during the game, but afterwards the soldiers are my team."

Jon Howdeshell, a 6-foot, left-handed quarterback, was named the starter by first-year head coach Tim Stephens on Thursday. "Since it is the first game and our line is still coming together, Jon's scrambling ability was one of the deciding factors."

Tonight's game also will be the season opener for Tri-City.

"We've seen the Diesel's roster," said Stephens. "We recognize some of their players, and really like our matchups."

The Crude has 14 players on the active roster that will be making their indoor football debut. "Monday's scrimmage was wonderful," said Stephens, "for some of our new guys to get the feeling of the what it's like to play arena football - how loud it is, how close the crowd is to the field."

General admission tickets will be available for \$8, and reserved seats for \$13.

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AETC Bases News Clips

Vance AFB OK



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Enid home to AF's best

March 23, 2003

Cummins honored; Red Cross steps up to help military families.

Thumbs up

Enid is the home of the Air Force's Journalist of the year!

Thumbs up to Kent Cummins, who has received several honors recently, including this latest one from the Air Force. Cummins is the chief of news and editor of the Airscoop, the base newspaper. He oversees the wing's internal and external communications programs.

Cummins always has been a good source for the News & Eagle and he has worked well with our staff in helping us get information from Vance Air Force Base. It's partly through his efforts that area residents know what's going on there at the base.

Congratulations, Kent!

Thumbs up

Thumbs up to the American Red Cross for the tremendous work it does year-round, but particularly during war- time.

Most of us know about local disasters to which the Red Cross responds, such as helping families who've lost homes to flood or fire. But during war time, the Red Cross plays an even more important role.

The American Red Cross helps keep families in contact with their loved ones overseas. This will be important to several local families as troops are deployed overseas for duty in the Persian Gulf.

Thanks to the Red Cross for all they do for us.

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AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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'Eagle Eyes' program helps service target suspicious behavior

THE SUN HERALD

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE - Only you know who or what belongs (or doesn't belong) in your building, neighborhood, or work center.

Recognition of this fact is behind one of the latest Air Force anti-terrorism initiatives, a program known as "Eagle Eyes."

The program has characteristics of a typical neighborhood-watch program, and Air Force officials consider it a key piece in the service's anti-terrorism strategy.

According to Special Agent Ted Born, Chief, Counterintelligence/Counter Terrorism of Det. 407 of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, the program takes its cue from the experiences of British and Israeli authorities, who have significant experience dealing with urban terrorism.

"They make it their business to pay a lot of attention to small things that, in combination, can indicate they're being targeted," Born said. "Eagle Eyes is our model for doing just that. The simple act of recognizing suspicious behavior and reporting it to base authorities could thwart terrorist acts and save lives."

Call and response

At Keesler, anyone with something to report should immediately call the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk at 377-3040.

From there, security forces will respond as appropriate to the immediate situation and immediately pass the report to OSI Det. 407. Then OSI will begin appropriate follow-up action, which may include an agent responding to talk with the person who called in the report to gain additional information on what was seen or heard.

At the same time, the information will be sent to OSI's central analytical center at Andrews AFB, Md., to compare with other Air Force reports, as well as similar information from the Army, Navy and other federal agencies.

But it all begins at the local level, Born said, where terrorists conduct operational planning activities.

"Every terrorist operation is preceded by precursor events that people need to recognize and report," said Born. "Terrorist acts don't just happen - they are carefully planned and rehearsed many, many times in advance."

Biloxi Sun Herald

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AETC Bases News Clips

KEESLER AFB, MS



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Public awareness

The key is public awareness of what to look for and take note of, both on and off base.

"This is something the whole community needs to be involved in," Born said. "Anyone, from active-duty military members, to family members, to government civilians, contractors, and even off-base business proprietors, could see something out of the ordinary, report it, and make the difference between a terrorist act occurring or not occurring.

"Our best chance to detect and prevent a terrorist act in our community is to vigilantly report it. The more eyes and ears we can enlist to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, the more difficult we can make it for terrorists to act."

Born said people shouldn't be gun-shy about reporting incidents that could turn out to be innocent behavior.

"That's bound to happen from time to time, but you don't know if it's innocent until you report it and have it checked out," Born said. "We're much less concerned about too much reporting than we are with too little. When lives are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry. If in doubt, report it. Your call could make the difference. The bottom line is if something bothers you or doesn't seem right, tell someone."

In addition to reporting information to the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk, anyone can call AFOSI Det 407 at 377-3420 or 0534.

Keesler and the Gulf Coast law enforcement team is a very strong program with connections between federal, state and local law enforcement at all levels; however, after the attacks of 9/11 and with the threat of attack, it is critical to have more support.

The Eagle Eyes program is AFOSI's way to incorporate everyone into this law enforcement team.

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AETC Bases News Clips

LAUGHLIN AFB, TX



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Laughlin beefs up security

BILL SONTAG

Staff Writer

Specialist E-4 Michael W. Allen must really enjoy Del Rio. His home is in San Antonio with his wife, Angela, and their seven-month-old son, but he seems to "visit" our town under some of the most dreary circumstances.

This time Allen is here with a few buddies from his 300-member Texas Army National Guard unit, the First Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the 141st Infantry, deployed here to help beef up security for U.S. Air Force compatriots at Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB). And, from all appearances, he's glad to be back.

Allen's home unit is a battalion of mechanized infantry, the motto of which is "Remember the Alamo," because the organization has military lineage back to Texas Guard fighters in the battle for the famous mission. The modern descendent of that heroic unit bristles with armaments such as Bradley Fighting Vehicles, a mortar platoon and scouts in heavily armed Hummer vehicles.

Allen's first compassionate Del Rio detail came in August, 1998. "We arrived here the afternoon after the big flood the night before," he proudly remembered. Despite the lamentable circumstances of a war halfway around the world today and devastating floodwaters five years ago along San Felipe Creek, Allen declared Thursday that he's glad to be here. "We got a real good welcome from the Air Force and Del Rio," he fondly recalled of the reception provided to him and his detachment on their arrival at LAFB nearly two months ago.

More than 30 Texas National Guardsmen

(yes, it's an all male deployment now) are here to augment 80 permanent Air Force security personnel charged with maintaining "absolute force protection" of the base and the folks who work there. Major David Abercrombie is commander of the 47th Security Forces Squadron, and applauds Allen and his fellow Guardsmen. "Because they're here, we have more people on the road, more people at the gates, and more force protection to prevent any threats to security of the base," Abercrombie avowed Thursday.

The Guard detachment is lodged in base housing, apartments featuring sleeping quarters, microwave, television, and (to Allen's astonishment) housekeeping service! Food is great, too, according to Allen, at what was once called a mess hall, now "the dining facility." He acknowledges that the only complaint he can remember is merely illustrative of generally great victuals. "The worst thing that's happened with food is that I ordered eggs sunny side up one morning, and they came out over easy."

Overall, the accommodations are a refreshing change from living out of the back of his convoy trucks during the Flood of '98 here, or in a similar situation in Louisiana, billeted in a warehouse very close to busy railroad tracks.

On arrival at LAFB the detachment received a month

of specific training for skills needed in execution of their duties, such as inspection and cordoning of buildings, and measures to detain problem-causers with arm and wrist holds and handcuffs. First aid training included cardiopulmonary resuscitation, rescue breathing, triage, and treatment of shock, burns and bleeding.

Allen's day begins at 4 a.m. Checking the uniform and gear, he's on duty by 5 for "the guard mount," to begin a 12-hour shift of patrolling and inspections from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. The one-hour overlap, between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. with the previous shift, allows time for breakfast and communications between those going off and those coming on duty.

His days are spent rotating from gate inspection assignments, to sentry duties, to vehicle and foot patrols around the base, to building inspections, to random vehicle inspections. Anyone driving a vehicle is subject to being stopped and searched if they meet criteria which Allen would not disclose, even and "including [LAFB Wing Commander] Colonel Woodward, if it was his turn." The inspectors look for weapons, drugs, open containers of alcohol, explosives and other contraband, according to Major Abercrombie, adding that, so far, they've only confiscated a stash of marijuana.

Allen's daily equipment

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX



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consists of what Abercrombie calls "deadly force and less-than-deadly force weapons," including pepper spray, an "asp" baton, an M-16 rifle and live ammunition. Permanent force personnel carry 9 mm sidearms, but Guardsmen and Air Force security personnel alike, usually traveling in pairs, may also be accompanied by "a working dog," Abercrombie added. The canine companions are all trained to attack on command (or decist from attack, as required). "But," Abercrombie chuckled, "whether the dogs are trained to detect drugs or sniff out explosives, they've all got teeth!"

Allen is particularly proud of the unwavering support his

employer, Ariaz and Associates, is of his frequent Texas National Guard deployments. His boss calls his family to inquire if they need anything, and always welcomes Allen back into the construction materials testing profession when he returns from duty.

Allen's expects his assignment here to last about a year, and his overall assessment of his LAFB experience thus far reflects satisfaction for fulfilling an important mission. He declared Wednesday, "All the Guardsmen here at Laughlin Air Force Base are glad to be here. We're all from Texas, pretty close to home, and we feel we're protecting our family and friends here in Texas."



News-Herald photo by Bill Sontag

Texas National Guardsman Specialist Michael Allen is serving with a contingent of 30 fellow soldiers to provide amplified security for Laughlin Air Force Base (LAFB). No stranger to Del Rio, Allen has been on duty here before, but is enjoying this assignment more than the last. Specialized training and close cooperation with LAFB permanent security protection forces have allowed Allen to tighten up security at entrances, perimeters and on-base facilities.

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX



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Texas bases play major military role

1 in 10 active-duty troops based here

By JOHN W. GONZALEZ
HEARST NEWSPAPERS

With 16 major military installations and a tenth of all active-duty troops, Texas figures prominently in the nation's war effort in Iraq.

All Air Force basic training is conducted in San Antonio, where five military installations give the city the state's largest concentration of military facilities.

The Army's most populous post is Fort Hood near Killeen. A vast section of South Texas serves as the training ground for half of all Navy and Marine jet pilots.

Texas-based troops operate the military's most sophisticated weaponry, including high-flying bombers, attack helicopters, tanks, artillery and naval minesweepers. The Army's first all-digital combat units hail from Texas.

Collectively, Texas bases are host to an estimated 115,000 active-duty troops and generate nearly \$50 billion annually in economic activity throughout the state.

About 9 percent of all Pentagon spending is in Texas.

Despite base closures and other defense downsizing, Texas remains an important venue for training, as it has been since World War I.

The state's location, mild weather, infrastructure and other factors keep it in favor with Pentagon planners and Congress.

As it has since 1845, the U.S. Army maintains a significant presence in Texas, with huge forts near Killeen, El Paso and in San Antonio.

The Air Force has the most facilities, with bases in San Antonio, Abilene, Del Rio, San Angelo and Wichita Falls.

The Navy's three installations are grouped near Corpus Christi and include one of two air stations where Navy and Marine pilots receive an important part of their early jet training.

The Marines do not operate facilities in Texas, but they train at several Texas posts, bases and Guard and Reserve facilities.

Smaller facilities — bombing ranges, radar stations, supply depots and airfields — have specialized missions across the state. The Department of Defense, Texas Air National Guard, Texas Army National Guard and various other reserve units operate training and depot facilities around the state.

Here are the state's major military installations, their main components and specialties.

Air Force

Dyess AFB, Abilene — From its World War II roots, Dyess has evolved into a high-tech operation as home of the 7th Bomb Wing, which flies B-1B bombers with the motto "Death From Above."

Laughlin AFB, Del Rio — As it has since the 1960s, Laughlin trains pilots for combat and noncombat roles. Home of the 47th Flying Training Wing, the base uses T-37 and T-6 aircraft as primary trainers, followed by the T-1 or T-38.

Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo — The 17th Training Wing and the 344th Military Intelligence Bat-

alion are based here. They provide specialized training in cryptology and related intelligence fields and fire protection.

Brooks City-Base, San Antonio — The School of Aerospace Medicine and the 311th Human Systems Wing make Brooks a key research site. Parts of the base have been leased to private entities in the "city-base" concept.

Lackland AFB, San Antonio — All Air Force basic training is conducted at Lackland, which is home to the 37th Training Wing, the 59th Medical Wing and Wilford Hall Medical Center.

Randolph AFB, San Antonio — Established in 1930, the base is the home of the 12th Flying Training Wing and several other training groups. It plays a major role in the training of Air Force instructor pilots, navigators and electronic warfare specialists.

Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls — This World War II-era base is host of the 82nd Training Wing and the 80th Flying Training Wing. Pilots are schooled along with aircrew members and support specialists in medicine, engineering and other fields at the largest and most diversified training wing of the Air Education and Training Command.

Army

Fort Bliss, El Paso — As home of the Army's Air Defense Artillery School, the post is renowned as a training site for desert warfare. Eight major brigades and commands are based at Fort Bliss, and several NATO

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SAN ANTONIO EXPRES

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LAUGHLIN AFB, TX



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MILTON POTTS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Army Sgt. Dorothy Tucker is based at Fort Hood near Killeen. Texas is home to 16 major military installations.

members have permanent training sites on the massive installation.

Biggs Army Air Field, El Paso — Adjacent to Fort Bliss and equipped with long runways (it is a former Air Force base), Biggs is a transportation hub and serves as headquarters for Joint Task Force 6, which oversees drug interdiction efforts.

Fort Hood, Killeen — The nation's most populous Army post is big enough to accommodate two divisions — the 1st Cavalry and 4th Infantry — and nine smaller groups. The divisions include the Army's first all-digitized combat units. Of the 43,000 troops at Fort Hood, 30,000 were committed to Southwest Asia.

Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio — Founded in 1845, Fort Sam is home of the 5th Army, and its Brooke Army Medical Center remains a leading training site for medics.

Red River Army Depot, Texarkana — Opened in World War II as a munitions depot, the depot has become a maintenance cen-

ter for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and other systems, rocket launchers and missiles, with a largely civilian work force.

Camp Bullis, San Antonio — Active-duty, Guard and Reserve troops, including military police and combat medics, are among those who train here.

Navy

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi — Working with the station in Kingsville, this station, home of Training Air Wing Four and several smaller groups, takes advantage of a vast section of restricted South Texas airspace for primary pilot training in the propeller-driven T-34 aircraft.

Naval Air Station Kingsville — Half of the 300 Navy and Marine pilots who qualify each year to fly jets are trained at Kingsville,

using the T-45A Goshawk. Two jet squadrons — VT21 and VT22 — train at Kingsville, which controls 14,000 square miles of South Texas airspace and utilizes the McMullen Target Range near Freer during its average of more than 300 flyable days per year.

Naval Station Ingleside — Created in 1988 to serve as a major Navy port for an aircraft carrier and battleship, plans changed when the homeport designation was canceled. But Ingleside has emerged as the main training center for mine warfare and countermeasures, home for the Mine Warfare Command and base for 20 minesweepers and support vessels.

John W. Gonzalez is a reporter with the Houston Chronicle

Texas bases

▲ AIR FORCE

- ① Dyess AFB, Abilene
- ② Laughlin AFB, Del Rio
- ③ Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo
- ④ Brooks City-Base, San Antonio
- ⑤ Lackland AFB, San Antonio
- ⑥ Randolph AFB, San Antonio
- ⑦ Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls

▲ ARMY

- ⑧ Fort Bliss, El Paso
- ⑨ Biggs Army Air Field, El Paso
- ⑩ Fort Hood, Killeen
- ⑪ Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio
- ⑫ Red River Army Depot, Texarkana
- ⑬ Camp Bullis, San Antonio

■ NAVY

- ⑭ Naval Air Station Corpus Christi
- ⑮ Naval Air Station Kingsville
- ⑯ Naval Station Ingleside



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Sheppard AFB, TX



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Normal days continue despite conflict in Iraq

By Times Record News
March 21, 2003

While the rest of America battens down the hatches as the United States wages war in Iraq, life goes on in Wichita Falls and North Texas.

Lt. Col. John Skinner, director of public communications at Sheppard Air Force Base, said security forces at the base have been vigilant since Sept. 11, 2001.

"Rest assured, they have taken the necessary actions to continue to ensure our safety and our security," he said.

The base's Force Protection Condition remained at Bravo as it has for the last several months. Force Protection Conditions range from the lowest level of Alpha to Bravo, Charlie and the highest level of Delta.

The alert was elevated to Delta following the terror attacks in 2001, resulting in a total lockdown on the base.

Today, motorists should expect slower traffic getting on base as security forces check identification of all drivers, Skinner said. Visitors, active duty members and family and civilian employees should allow enough time to compensate for the delays.

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, commander of the 82nd Training Wing, urged those on and off base to join Sheppard in being vigilant and aware of the surroundings.

"We must maintain a high degree of situational awareness and report anything unusual to law enforcement authorities," he said. "It's important to be vigilant."

If residents off base notice something unusual, they are encouraged to call the Wichita Falls Police Department. People on base should call Security Forces.

Although the base didn't visibly raise its Force Protection Condition, Skinner said there is a process in place that could increase the threat level quickly.

"It would take a determination by the appropriate authorities or leadership," he said. "I can't say if this happens it will increase, or if that happens it will increase."

Just hours after the first U.S. air attacks in Iraq, many Wichitans were in the air themselves - with almost no fear of traveling while the country is at war.

The Wichita Falls Municipal Airport operated on schedule; the first American Eagle flight took off this morning full and on time. Airline representatives said they didn't anticipate cancellations - or even any delays Thursday - in light of the war.

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Sheppard AFB, TX



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Normal days continue despite conflict in Iraq, Con't

But many passengers got up even earlier, just to be sure.

Margaret and Kenneth Burks were two of the pre-dawn risers.

Margaret said they were traveling to Atlanta on Thursday, regardless of the situation in the Middle East. Kenneth is having cancerous tumors removed there; if they had to drive, they would've, she said.

Arriving at the airport with plenty of time to spare reassured the couple they would make it on the 6 a.m. flight to Dallas-Fort Worth, where their connecting flight awaited to take them to Georgia. They were two of about 30 people watching CNN's live coverage on the airport TV while waiting to board the plane.

Neither was worried about flying - both from the small airport here, or the two international airports in their journey.

"I'm not really scared about it," Margaret said. "Neither is he."

And as the situation progresses half the world away, normalcy will be maintained for travelers, Terry Lavender, an American Eagle representative, said.

"I didn't have any worries at all (coming to work this morning,)" she said, sitting at the passenger security checkpoint. Lavender assured those traveling in the sky during the first day of the conflict. "I'd fly."

Late Thursday, Jerry Garmon, airport administrator, said there weren't any problems locally in light of the unpredictable turmoil thousands of miles away, but security measures have been increased at the airport.

"We'll stay in that mode until otherwise alerted," he said.

The onset of war means little change for United Regional Health Care System, said Jeff Gardner, director of guest services, safety and security.

The 48-hour deadline, war and heightened terror alert meant keeping a sharper eye out for the unusual, but that hasn't meant adding personnel or changing policies, Gardner said.

Local law enforcement officials and first responders gave a second look to their surroundings, but were sure that they were doing everything they could to ensure citizens' safety.

"Our job is to be ready for emergencies," said Earl Foster, Wichita Falls Fire Department assistant fire chief. "We're not going to change how we do business."

The Wichita Falls Police Department said there weren't imminent plans to change to a higher security level.

"It'll be business as usual," Officer Melvin Joyner said. "We have practices in place (already)."

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Normal days continue despite conflict in Iraq, Con't

Keeping a sense of normalcy was a point other officials emphasized when asked whether any security changes could occur. There were few other changes planned because security was already a high focus locally.

"People need to be more vigilant of routines," Lee Bourgoin, Wichita County emergency management coordinator said. "Press on with everyday life. There's nothing we can do that's going to be different."

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Pilot error deemed cause of T-37 crash

By John Ingle
Times Record News
March 22, 2003

An accident investigation board determined that pilot error caused a mid-air collision Dec. 20 between two Sheppard Air Force Base T-37 aircraft over Oklahoma, officials said.

One of the jets crashed into a wheat field near an elementary school in Grandview, Okla., and the other made it back to Sheppard for a crash landing, officials said. None of the four pilots involved, two instructors and two students, were seriously injured.

The board determined the aircraft were too close when one of them departed from formation in a practice maneuver, according to a press release from the Sheppard public communications office.

The nationality of the two NATO student pilots wasn't released.

The two training jets took off from Sheppard at about 9:30 a.m. Dec. 20, according to the media release. The accident occurred about 25 minutes after takeoff.

When the aircraft broke formation, it collided with the second aircraft, according to the media release. The student pilot then determined the aircraft was uncontrollable and made the order for both pilots in the two-seater to eject.

Local authorities picked up the pilots once they safely parachuted back to the ground, the release said. An Army helicopter from Fort Sill, Okla., then transported them back to Sheppard. The other aircraft was able to make it back to Sheppard, but the pilot was forced to land the aircraft without landing gear.

Lt. Col. John Skinner, the chief of public communications at the base, said base officials could handle losing equipment. The safety of the crews comes first.

"Any time we have an accident, we're going to digest it so everyone can learn from it," he said. "We lost two aircraft, but the fortunate thing is we didn't lose people."

As with all military branches, the incident hasn't slowed down the mission, Skinner said. It hasn't stopped the students or instructor pilots from continuing their mission at Sheppard either.

"Both student pilots continue to be in the pilot training program and continue to do well," he said. "The two instructors are continuing to train pilots."

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Vance AFB OK



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Trouble in skies over Iraq

By: Robert Barron, Staff Writer

March 21, 2003



Maj. Erik Pettyjohn was enforcing the Iraqi no-fly zone when the F-16 he was piloting flamed out in 1997.
(Staff Photo by PAUL RUTHERFORD)

Pilot remembers his 1997 harrowing flight in no-fly zone.

Maj. Erik Pettyjohn visited a part of Turkey not many people see - twice.

Pettyjohn twice saw a remote area of Turkey, the first time following another pilot who experienced engine problems, the second time when his F-16 flamed out.

Pettyjohn was flying a sortie in northern Iraq in 1997 when his oil line sheared and the engine quit.

Then-Capt. Pettyjohn and Capt. Terry Virth were enforcing the no-fly-zone over northern Iraq as part of Operation Northern Watch when the trouble occurred.

Pettyjohn was 30 minutes inside Iraq when "Betty," a recorded voice that notifies pilots of engine trouble, activated.

"Betty came on, and I looked, and my oil pressure was already down to zero," Pettyjohn said.

He turned north, seeking the shortest route to a friendly country. He managed to climb slightly, then jettisoned his fuel and missiles to lighten his load.

After coaxing his plane across the Iraqi border he was 16 miles from a Turkish air base when the engine quit and he began to lose altitude and airspeed.

"At that point I was flying a \$30 million glider," he said.

Although the aircraft has the capacity to fly about five miles in an identical situation, Pettyjohn got another 18 miles from his jet.

"The engineers can't explain why the engine went 18 miles and it was supposed to go five," he said. "I think it was a leap of faith. I had some help from a higher power."

Pettyjohn "deadstick-guided" the plane to land on the runway at the base, which is only 30 miles from Iran.

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Pilot remembers his 1997 harrowing flight in no-fly zone, Con't.

The area in which the base is located is on land claimed by three different Kurdish groups located in Turkey and Iran. If he needed to bail out of the plane there was no certainty any of those Kurds would have been friendly, he said.

However, it was a better chance than crashing in Iraq, where Saddam Hussein had offered a \$12,000 bounty on any American pilot, Pettyjohn said.

"Twelve thousand dollars goes a long way in Iraq," he said.

After landing, Pettyjohn and Virth were met by a Turkish helicopter and vintage fire truck and were treated to lunch with the base commander.

Pettyjohn's plane was found to have a design flaw resulting in a vibration of the oil line, which created a shear over time. A number of F-16s from the same manufacturer had been lost, and Pettyjohn's plane was the first that could be examined.

He had flown more than 300 sorties, and that incident was the first major problem he ever encountered, he said.

Pettyjohn is the son of an Air Force pilot who flew in Vietnam, and the grandson of a P-38 pilot who flew against Japan in World War II. He has been in the Air Force 11 years and is currently stationed at Vance Air Force Base.

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Serving where needed

Texas National Guard to support Sheppard personnel with duties

By John Ingle
Times Record News
March 21, 2003

They look like Air Force security personnel, and they act like them, too.

But examine service tags and collar insignia more closely, and it's easy to see they aren't typical members of the 82nd Security Forces Squadron at Sheppard Air Force Base.

About 50 Texas National Guard members of Company C, 372nd Forward Support Battalion from Texarkana arrived last month, officials said.

The additional forces were welcomed, Capt. Jasin Cooley, operations officer for the squadron, said. Security personnel at the base had been tagged for deployment for the war in Iraq.

"The biggest impact is on the airmen who are still here," he said.

The guard unit boosted morale.

"We saw it as a light at the end of a tunnel," Cooley said.

The guardsmen mostly will work as gate guards, but others patrol the base's perimeter, he said.

Cooley described the unit as "high caliber." Its members have responded to Air Force customs quickly.

A few of the guardsmen said it doesn't matter if they were deployed to an Air Force base or the front lines in Iraq. They have a job to do, and they're going to do it.

But Sgt. Grant Davis, a mechanic in civilian life and a medical logistics technician in the guard, said that doesn't mean he wanted to leave home.

"I'm ready to stay here and do what we have to," Davis said. "Of course, a soldier wants to go home. A soldier doesn't want to leave home."

But that's part of military life - active duty, guard or reserve, the Atlanta, Texas, man said.

Davis said that all the credit goes to the men and women in the deserts of the Middle East.

"When the ticker-tape parade comes around and the medals are passed out, they deserve the credit," he said.



Harry Tonemah/Times Record News

Spc. Brad Bishop of Texarkana directs traffic Thursday morning at the main gate of Sheppard Air Force Base.

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Sheppard AFB, TX



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Serving where needed, Con't.

Spc. Robert Son, Davis's cohort at the main gate, said his job in Clarksville, Texas, as an X-ray technician is on hold while he serves at Sheppard.

Seeing the mission accomplished is his goal.

"Bottom line on that," he said.

The toughest adjustment, Son said, was moving from civilian to military thinking.

"It has pretty much been the toughest thing," he said. "It's a different lifestyle."

Students in the Savoy Independent School District were ready to go to war in January for reasons of their own.

Their teacher and Assistant Principal Jennifer Armstrong, a sergeant in the TNG, was called up.

"They didn't want me to go," she said. "They were all going to write letters to the Army."

The addition of the soldiers has allowed the base to be better manned, Cooley said. But if the threat condition increases from Bravo, security forces could feel the pinch again.

"We're feeling it now," he said. "We're really hurting."

At that time, workers from other career fields could be tapped as "ready augmentees" to help secure the base.



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Sheppard alums confident they're combat ready

By John Ingle
Times Record News
March 22, 2003

"Shock and Awe" hit Friday in Baghdad, but the campaign to defeat Iraq started at Sheppard Air Force Base long ago.

When B-52s flew from Britain and dropped smart bombs Friday on various locations in Iraq, many of those involved developed their combat capability at Sheppard Air Force Base.

For instance, Airman Matthew Easton launched his career from Sheppard about a year ago, and, on Friday afternoon, he launched B-52s from an air base in western England.

The native of Marrowbay, Calif., learned almost everything he needed to know about the "Bufs" - an affectionate term for the massive bombers - as a crew chief student at Sheppard.

"I believe they trained me really well and trained me quickly and thoroughly so I could go and carry out the mission," he said Friday.

Most people are awed and mystified at the pilots who fly some of the most technologically advanced aircraft in the world. But the simple truth is, if the crew chief doesn't think the aircraft is ready, it isn't going anywhere.

Part of Easton's duties is to follow any maintenance that is required on the 185,000-pound jet, he said. In short, he is responsible for making sure the bomber is mission ready.

Easton does have help, he said. He is an assistant crew chief, working to upgrade to the next level and possibly to flying crew chief.

It's not unusual to see other airmen at the air base in England who walked the grounds of Sheppard with him, Easton said.

One of those is Airman 1st Class Mike Kreutzbender, a fuels systems technician.

Kreutzbender's job is to literally crawl into the belly of the beast and check out eight of the 12 fuel cells on the colossal aircraft.

The training he received at Sheppard has made it possible for him to get involved in real world situations, he said.



Courtesy Photo

Airman 1st Class Mike Kreutzbender is a fuels system technician working in England to make sure B-52's reach their targets.

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Sheppard AFB, TX



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Sheppard alums confident they're combat ready, Con't.

"I believe altogether they trained us very well," he said.

What he learned at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., combined with everything he has gone through has made his mission easier to deal with, Kreutzbender said. He is still learning and will learn more in this wartime situation than at Minot, his home base.

Easton and Kreutzbender agreed the training at Sheppard has prepared them and many others to carry out the mission of the Air Force - in peacetime or war.

"I've seen everyone doing the best job they can out there," Easton said. "There are some well-trained individuals I work with, not just in the crew chief career field."

Kreutzbender said he knew where the mighty Buffs were headed when they left the flight line Friday. He knew the mission and where the bombs would fall.

But he had a mission to do, as did the others there who might have trained at Sheppard.

"That's what our job is for," he said. "To support the mission. If that's to go over and bomb Iraq, that's what we do."



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



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State has plan to protect Luke

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic

The Arizona Department of Commerce has completed a plan designed to preserve Luke Air Force Base's mission by defining a strategy to deal with incompatible land uses around the base.

After about a year of work including meetings with Luke stakeholders, such as nearby cities and landowners, the final draft of Phase 1 of the Arizona Military Compatibility Project is complete. Phase 2 will address issues at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson and other Arizona bases.

Among its recommendations, the plan calls for compensation to landowners

around the base either simultaneously or before further land-use restrictions are imposed. It's an important issue because those landowners have long said the burden of "saving Luke" has been placed disproportionately on their shoulders.

Michael Francis, who owns 260 acres west of Luke, said he believes the plan addresses the main problems dealing with the viability of Luke.

"The report as a whole is a good report, but probably the property owners' biggest concern is there might be some people who would try to use a cafeteria-style approach to the report and just pick out the things they like," he said. "So if we can treat people fairly and move forward, I think it's something the property owners

could live with."

Mary Jo May, a spokeswoman for Luke, called the plan "a dynamic project constantly changing, and it's just one step but not the final step in solving incompatible land-use issues."

Deb Sydenham of the Commerce Department, said the plan is the framework within which state, county and local governments can work to resolve land-use issues around Luke, which trains F-16 fighter pilots and crew chiefs.

"The framework has been put in place and this is a guide," Sydenham said.

Reach the reporter at
david.madrid@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6926.

Luke was here first; be thankful for security

As the growth around Luke Air Force Base continues to escalate, I can only hope that those who purchased their expensive homes are smart enough to realize a few things. Luke was there first. It is not about to move, nor should it. It should not have to change its flight patterns to suit you and your television viewing desires.

It is there to train personnel for the day when they are called up to defend this country, something I hope you can relate to.

The fact is this: You should not be permitted to build within the area of the base. However, that is not up to me. Rather, you will be permitted to build; after all, that is your right.

Then, if all goes according to what I think will happen, you will sue the government, alleging that your lifestyle is cramped by the "noise" generated by the base and by the consistent fear from the low-flying aircraft.

Here is my suggestion: Live with it. I lived for many years

on an air base. Instead of cursing the planes and the pilots, you should be on your knees thanking God they are there. These people are doing something that you and many others today have never done and probably never will do — be a part of defending this country. They are up there training to defend people like yourselves.

But that won't matter. You will find a lawyer who will "stick up for your rights," a

lawyer who will bring charges against the very site that trains people to defend your right to sue them. Ironic, isn't it?

— Ed and Betsy Kircher
Phoenix

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To be better, Con't.

Rooney pulls from all sources to improve Sheppard

By Angel Riggs, Times Record News
March 23, 2003

Riding the current is easy — even a dead fish can go with the flow; with goals in place, the motivated salmon can swim upstream.

Brig. Gen. Arthur Rooney, commander of the 82nd training wing at Sheppard Air Force Base, took that story from a Sunday service recently. It seems to fit with his philosophy of setting goals for leadership and efficiency in a learning partnership with Wichita Falls.

"An organization without goals is treading water," Rooney said.

So, he's looked everywhere from Disney World to United Supermarkets for ideas and advice on linking the business world with the base. And, an avid reader, he read daily, often while on an exercise bike for an hour.

He's studied everything from Lincoln's management practice of walking amongst workers for a first-hand view, to former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's thoughts on leadership.

"I think business leaders can learn a great deal from America's military," he said. "Our core values, work ethic, discipline."

"But then there's a great deal we can learn from commercial industry."

Many of the changes Rooney has made at the base in his first year, revolve around a problem that's plagued business for years: old-fashioned efficiency.

But with Rooney's leading, even the means of achieving efficiency is efficient.

Groups at the base are assigned projects, which can range from a quality of life concern to paperwork. As those groups work to complete their project, weekly reports are made in staff meetings, where information is shared and other group leaders develop ideas.

"In this process, people are communicating more," said Lt. Col. John Skinner, director of public affairs at the base. "The exchange of information is benefiting everyone across the base."

However, Rooney isn't looking just at the base — he's looked across the town for inspiration and education.

Ice cream and customer service

During a grocery shopping trip to United Supermarket, Rooney and his wife came across a sale on Blue Bonnet Ice Cream: two for \$5.

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To be better, Con't.

"We walked out with about \$30 of Blue Bonnet Ice Cream," he said. "Of course, that required help carrying it out."

A "good looking kid" helped the couple out to the car, ice cream in tow, but wouldn't accept a tip.

"He said, 'No sir, it's been my pleasure serving you.'"

Not long after that, Rooney, back at United Supermarket, stood in line behind a customer who ordered an eggnog latte. The young salesperson asked the customer to taste his latte, just to make sure it was OK.

The customer said it was perfect, and the salesperson said, "Good, that's the way it's supposed to be," Rooney said.

"I asked if she received customer serving training, and she said, 'Yes, does it show?'"

It wasn't long before a military bus showed up at the store, full of employees from Sheppard eager to learn how employees of all levels at the store gained such a motivation for customer service.

Tim Chase, president of the Board of Commerce and Industry, said he applauds "the general's efforts to improve aspects of running a military installation by looking for private sector models that might be beneficial."

"I think that when the leadership of the military and the business community get an opportunity to see how each other operates it can only lead to improvements for both."

Keeping fit

The Houston-based Quality Institute of America is working closely with the base's Manpower and Organization department in strategic planning and measuring of productivity and improvements.

Tech. Sgt. Erasmus Henriquez has worked at the base since 1995 and is now employed in the Manpower office. His background in the fitness industry has helped him understand Rooney's plan for keeping business improvements on the front burner.

"We're a body," he said. "If you want to make it better, you have to have a plan. Getting in shape is easy, staying in shape is the hardest."

"That's what Gen. Rooney has down pat — staying in shape."

And a key to staying in shape is keeping current. Many employees have found themselves hitting the books, at the general's request.

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To be better, Con't.

Henriquez walked into his boss' office recently and found an article with a yellow sticky-note attached that read "The General wants you to read this," he said.

Lt. Matthew Human, support branch chief in the Manpower department, nodded in agreement. Rooney suggested he read "Jack Welch and the GE Way," by Robert Slater. While books on leadership and management make up big sections of Rooney's library, they're not the only ones he recommends.

"I have read more under this commander than I have in all my other commanders in all my 17 years combined," Skinner said. "This leader has a great interest in the base library, he wants a world-class learning facility."

Rooney had a stack of books in his office last week. As he worked his way through the pile, he noted what lessons could be taken from each one. "Gung Ho," by Ken Blanchard, is written in story form, he said. "It explains the importance of people in an organization understanding the mission."

He's taken to heart a part of the book that talks about the importance of recognition.

"Something as simple as looking someone in the eye and saying 'Thanks getting the job well done, that was great.' We didn't do enough of that," he said.

Rooney shared passages from Giuliani's book "Leadership" with group and squadron commander on analysis and determining responsibility and accountability.

"I went to school and learned a great deal about management," Rooney said. "Without understanding the role of leadership, you could manage a company right out of business."

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